

DANCE STANDARDS GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Choreographic Processes

ABA

Rondo (ABACAD...)

Ground Bass

Round

Theme and Variation

Crew Members – Artistic Director

Dance Composition (choreography) - Describes a dance sequence that has been created with specific intent.

Dynamic Alignment - Maintaining proper skeletal alignment while stationary and in motion.

Elements of Movement – Time, Space and Energy

Time Elements

Tempo- speed at which movement is performed

Stillness – movement

Duration

Pulse

Measure

Accent

Intensity

Rhythm pattern

Phrase

Spatial Elements

Direction

Range – the amount of space a movement uses (small to large)

Floor patterns/pathways – straight, circular, spiral, designs, numbers, letters...

Levels – high, middle and low

Focus

Shape – abstract or literal, object in environment, wide/narrow, angular/circular

Weight – shift, support, counter

Elevation – landing, fall/recovery

Alignment – balance/off-balance

Symmetry/Asymmetry

Axial – twist, turn, shake, stretch, reach, bend, swing, push, pull, bounce

Locomotor – walk, run, leap, skip, jump, hop, gallop

Energy Elements

Dynamics

Tension/relaxation

Strong/light/heavy

Emotions

Improvisational Structures – Guidelines, prompts, directives given to students in order to elicit spontaneous movement responses.

Kinesthetic Awareness – Knowing what your body is performing (movement, alignment, energy...) without having to see yourself (in the mirror, video...)

Movement Strategies

Mirroring – opposites

Shadowing

Leading/following

Meeting/parting

Sensory Awareness

Music motivation

Text interpretation

Movement Variations

Production Terminology-

Production

Artistic Director	- sets program order, makes decisions for all details of concert
Stage Manager	- runs technical crew
Assistant SM	- assists Stage Manager
Lighting Technician	- programs and runs light board
Sound Technician	- runs sound
Choreographer	- person(s) who constructed dance
cue setting	- the rehearsal when all light and sound cues are set
technical rehearsal	- rehearsals on stage involving lights and sound
dress rehearsal	- last rehearsal before performance - in full costume, make up, hair

Stage Area

apron	- DS of proscenium
house	- place where audience sits

orchestra pit	- sunken area below apron
proscenium	- archway that separates stage and house
stage	- area in view of audience
off stage	- area not in view of audience
main curtain	- closes and opens at proscenium
traveler	- closes and opens at mid-stage
upstage curtain	- closes and opens behind cyc
cyclorama (cyc)	- backdrop used to enhance lighting projections
scrim	- transparent mesh curtain usually hung DS
leg	- side border of stage
wing	- space between legs, entrances and exits
spike mark	- mark pertinent areas of stage for props or dancer placement

Lighting

batten	- the pipes that hang above the stage – used to hang lights, curtains and scenery
strip lights	- light bar that projects various colors of lights onto cyc
electrics	- lighting overhead
cat walk	- lighting in front of stage
booms	- lighting in house on side walls
trees	- side lighting on stage
follow spot	- special lighting instrument that can be moved as performer travels on stage
special	- a pool of light that comes from a lighting instrument hung from a batten.
gel	- thin colored plastic sheet use over lighting instrument
strike	- term used to take down equipment
black out	- quick lights out
fade out	- slow dimming of light

Social/Cultural Dances – Ballroom, Latin, Irish Step Dancing, Country/Western, Native American, African, East Indian, Asian, Polynesian, Jewish, Greek, and other world dances.